



20th Standing Committee Meeting



(seated: left to right)
 Siviveni Rabuka,
 Major-General, Prime
 Minister, Fiji
 Baron Vaea,
 Prime Minister, Tonga
 Sir Geoffrey Henry,
 Chairman, Prime Minister,
 Cook Islands
 Bikenibeu Paeniu,
 Prime Minister, Tuvalu
 Sethy John Reganvanu, Deputy
 Prime Minister, Vanuatu
 (standing: left to right)
 Siviveni Halapua,
 Director, PIDP, East-West Ctr.
 Eni Faleomavaega, Congressman,
 American Samoa
 Alexandre Ata,
 Special Advisor for Foreign
 Affairs & Regional
 Cooperation, French Polynesia
 Resio Moses,
 Secretary for Foreign Affairs,
 Federated States of Micronesia
 John Kaputin,
 Minister for Foreign Affairs,
 Papua New Guinea
 Palani Vaughan, Senior Advisor
 Office of International
 Relations, State of Hawaii

PIDP Research on Economic Development Reviewed

*"If we wish to see meaningful advances
 for the Peoples of the Pacific islands
 by the dawn of this new century,
 the present approach to economic
 development requires a fundamental
 rethinking and redirection."*

The continuity and stability of improvements in the well-being of Pacific island societies hinge to a large extent on the governments' ability to foster sustainable development programs and projects in local communities. Through PIDP research activities Pacific island leaders are able to interact directly with the researchers.

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Standing Committee Approves Agenda

Members of the Standing Committee of the Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders met at the East-West Center, Honolulu, in January to review PIDP research and training activities. In addition, the Standing Committee discussed and approved a preliminary agenda for the Fourth Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders which will be held in Tahiti, June 1993. The special areas proposed for conference deliberations include economic development and population, small business development and culture, international trade arrangements, investment and environment, and the role of government in fostering sustainable development in the Pacific islands region.

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The government of Japan generously contributed \$150,000 to the financial support of PIDP for 1993. Their donation was presented by the Consul-General of Japan, Kensaku Hogen to chairman of the Standing Committee Honorable Geoffrey Henry and East-West Center president, Michel Oksenberg at right.

Agenda...

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PIDP's ongoing applied research activities were presented to the Standing Committee for discussion and consideration. The specific issues discussed included the commercial viability of Hybrid Renewable Energy Power Systems in a Pacific islands context; the application of Coastal Projection and wave Energy Dissipation Technology to a Pacific island country; the Economic viability and Policy Analysis of Sea-Bed Manganese Nodule Resources; and small business development and social and cultural aspects of economic development in the Pacific islands. New initiatives relating to applied research on the inter-connection between population and economic development; training and education program for the Pacific islands; and electronic database/network project for the region were discussed and approved.

The Standing Committee welcomed expansion of programs providing training and education support to Pacific island nations, and management and coordination of Pacific Island Nations participation in the U.S.-Pacific Islands Nation Joint Commercial Commission. It welcomed the increased technical and financial resources that the East-West Center has committed in support of the expanded activities of PIDP.

The Standing Committee agreed to recommend to the Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders that in addition to continued focus of the PIDP program research activities on basic and applied research, PIDP may, strictly in a consultative and advisory capacity, assist in the preparation and implementation of action research directed toward advancing national development plans and strategies, emphasizing research activities in the development of the private sector.



Economic Development Reviewed...

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The Pacific island leaders' decision to focus PIDP research on critical economic development issues stems from the need for analytically relevant strategies and information that will assist in the formulation of appropriate policies directed towards improving the quality and standards of living of the people of the Pacific island countries. A review of PIDP's previous research and its ongoing analysis of specific country-based experiences are both highlighted in the following components.

- The broad social and cultural development needs confronting Pacific islanders in their daily lives is inadequately met when government planners use Western style economics approach.
- Over-dependence on the conventional models of economic development appears to be at the root of many development problems in the region. Therefore, there is a need to fundamentally rethink the present approach to economic development vis-a-vis public policy in the Pacific islands.
- PIDP's multidisciplinary research is expected to shed new light on questions that are critical to understanding how the present approach to development in the Pacific islands can be reformulated. Areas of inquiry include research into the role of culture and tradition in economic development, the prospects for expanding tradition in economic development, the prospects for expanding intra-regional trade and investment, and exploration of ways in which foreign aid can better support sustainable private sector endeavors.
- These findings will enable Pacific island governments to devise appropriate economic strategies to invigorate development efforts at both the local and national levels. The major findings and recommendations of the first phase of PIDP's research on the role of and strategy for expanded private sector development in the Pacific islands will soon be available in a book entitled *Private Sector Development: Policies and Programs for the Pacific Islands*.
- A key mechanism for implementation of relevant policies with respect to increased private sector activity involves support for coordination of local, regional, and national institutions endowed with human resources and technical capacities that allow these three important partners to work in a complementary fashion.
- Strategies for Integrated Private Sector Development in Tuvalu, prepared by PIDP research staff in consultation with the government of Tuvalu, represents a new way of approaching private sector growth. Based upon the research findings of PIDP's Private Sector Project, the plan provides a framework and strategies to guide and integrate the aforementioned primary spheres of activity in a manner that will enhance national self-sufficiency. While such plans must be derived from country-specific conditions and resource endowments, the Tuvalu plan offers an example of how PIDP research can help in the formulation of a national strategy.
- PIDP's Renewable Energy Project centers on the economic, social, and commercial viability of renewable energy technologies for private sector development in the Pacific

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Training and Education for Pacific Islanders

"Human Resources for Responsible Development"

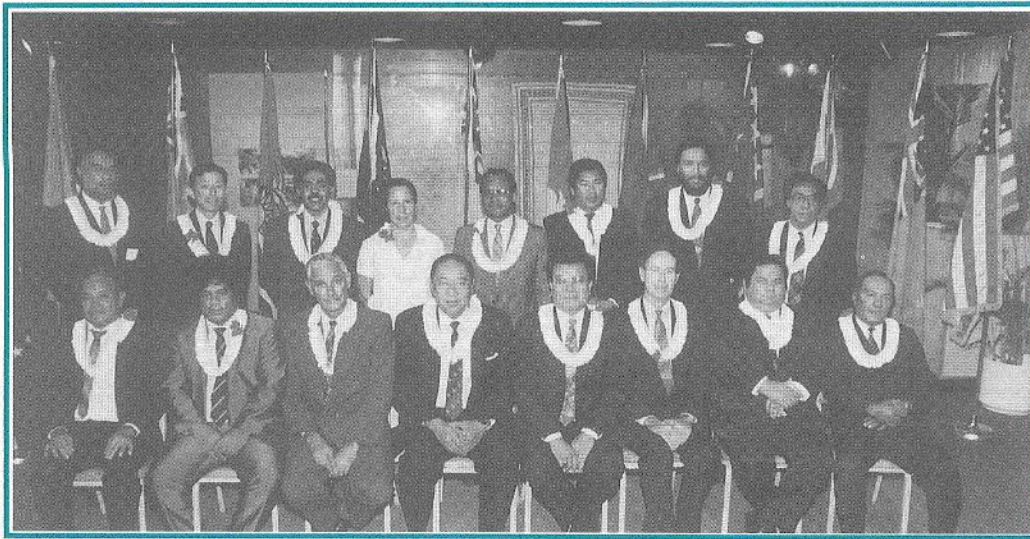
In keeping with the emphasis placed on training and education by the Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders, the East-West Center has expanded its support for human resource development. These activities are designed to fuse development needs with education and training opportunities for the peoples of the Pacific islands. The East-West Center through PIDP now provides the following opportunities:

- **Undergraduate scholarships** for study at the University of Hawaii are available for the first time in nearly twenty years. The awards are for individuals pursuing a two-year associate degree or a four-year bachelor degree in fields that are relevant to the Pacific islands. Applicants must possess a strong academic record and a desire to broaden their knowledge of the Pacific, Asia, and the United States.
- **Graduate scholarships** are for individuals who, having completed a bachelor's degree program, wish to undertake study leading to a master's or doctoral degree. Fields of study may include the natural or social science or other technical studies available at the University. This graduate study program has brought Pacific islanders to the East-West Center for nearly thirty years.
- **Short-term training scholarships** are organized in response to specific requests from Pacific island governments. The group training opportunities stress immediate skill needs, drawing upon expertise from throughout the

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Joint Commercial Commission (JCC)

Signing of "Memorandum of Understanding" at the East-West Center in Honolulu



(seated: left to right)
Tama Posimani,
Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries & Forestry, Niue
Remuera Tateraka,
Minister for Commerce, Industry
& Employment, Kiribati
Harold Porwell,
Minister for Trade & Commerce, Fiji
Baron Vaea,
Prime Minister, Tonga
Sir Geoffrey Henry,
Prime Minister, Cook Islands
Mike Owens, Director,
Office of Pacific Island Affairs,
Dept. of State, U.S.
Vinci Clodumar,
Minister for Finance, Nauru
Ionatana Ionatana
Minister for Labor, Work &
Communications, Tuvalu
(standing: left to right)
Sitiveni Halapua,
Director, PIDP
Kenji Sumida
East-West Center Executive
Vice President
Alfred Carlot, Secretary of Foreign
Affairs, Vanuatu
Margaret Taylor, Ambassador to the
United States, Papua New Guinea
Hugh Paia,
Ambassador to Pacific, Solomon
Islands
Jiba Kabua,
Secretary of Foreign Affairs,
Republic of the Marshall Islands
Epel Ilon,
Chief of Division for American
Affairs, Federated States of
Micronesia
Jioji Kotobalavu,
Executive Secretary of JCC

United States-Pacific Islands Economic Relations Initiative

The Joint Commercial Commission (JCC) is needed to promote better economic relations and understanding between the United States and the Pacific island nations. The concept of a JCC centers on the philosophy of "Aid for Trade and Investment" rather than "Aid for the Sake of Aid." An appreciation of this approach rests on the understanding that the actual production of goods and services in the Pacific islands is a necessary precondition for the attainment of long-term benefits from an international agreement of this kind.

The JCC will contribute to strengthened interdependence while lessening the dependence of the Pacific island nations on metropolitan countries. The growth of new linkages and greater interdependence will contribute to the maintenance of long-term stability in the Pacific islands region. The recent signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on the JCC between the United States and the Pacific Island Nations represents an important step in advancing this goal.

International Trade and Investment Project

"Reducing dependence through increased interdependence"

A comprehensive study of international trade/investment will focus on how regional arrangements, such as the U.S.-Pacific Islands Joint Commercial Commission (JCC), can be used to strengthen trade interdependence among the Pacific islands, Asia, and the United States. A preliminary draft analysis of intra-regional trade and investment of the Pacific island and Asian economies has been completed and will be available for distribution during 1993. Implementation of the project focusing on trade and investment issues relating to the JCC will begin after the recruitment of a trade and investment specialist in 1993.



*Pictured above:
John Kaputin, Minister for
Foreign Affairs, Papua New
Guinea signs JCC
memorandum of
understanding witnessed by
Jioji Kotobalavu,
Executive Secretary of JCC
(at right).*

FUNCTIONS OF JCC

1. Monitor trade and investment relations, identify and consult regarding the removal of impediments to, and problems affecting, trade and investment flows, and develop specific opportunities for expanding trade and investment in goods and services;
2. Exchange information on mutually beneficial development projects and activities;
3. Promote educational, training, technical assistance, and other related exchanges;
4. Undertake other appropriate actions to promote greater commercial cooperation between the Parties and their private sectors;
5. Provide a forum to foster private sector development initiatives and economic policies;
6. Facilitate relations between United States business enterprises and government, and the governments and private sectors of the Pacific Island Nations;
7. Promote involvement of United States business enterprises in the Pacific islands region by facilitating dissemination of information on emerging opportunities in the region.

Population and Economic Development Project

"Understanding the connection between population issues and economic development"

Research will be carried out to shed light on the interaction between and the dynamics of population and economic change and how these forces operate and affect the achievement of desired development objectives.

The research project is expected to be supported by the United Nations Fund for Population Activity (UNFPA) for the 1993-1995 period. One project fellow is currently funded through a seed grant from UNFPA to assist with project conceptualization and planning activities prior to formal proposal submission. This activity is also part of PIDP's preparation for the forthcoming Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders on "Sustainable Development and Population."



PIDP Dialogue

PIDP DIALOGUE is the official communique for the Pacific Islands Development Program of the East-West Center.

Our aim is to share with the Pacific islands public some of the news and ideas associated with PIDP activity. The mission of the Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP) of the East-West Center is to provide research and training services to the Pacific Island Leaders based on the issues and priorities determined by the Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders and its Standing Committee.

—Dr. Sitiveni Halapua, Director

Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders TAHITI '93

The Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders meets once every three years to (1) discuss and decide the issues and challenges of development in the region and (2) provide guidelines and determine the issues for research, training, and secretariat activity by the Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP) at the East-West Center. PIDP is the regional secretariat for the Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders. In addition, the Conference selects the heads of government to serve on its Standing Committee which reviews PIDP's projects annually to ensure that they respond to the issues and challenges raised at each Pacific Islands Conference.

The First Conference was convened at the East-West Center in Honolulu in 1980 and subsequently led to the establishment of PIDP as a regional secretariat. The Fourth Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders will be hosted by the government of French Polynesia in Tahiti from 24 to 26 of June 1993. The theme of the Conference is "Sustainable Development and Population" in the Pacific islands. The leaders will address the major dimensions of sustainable development and population in relation to their collective effort to improve the well-being of the people in the region. In common with the previous three conferences, key representatives from the regional and international organizations, private sector, and metropolitan countries will be invited to participate as observers at the Conference.

After the two and a half day conference, the leaders and guests will participate in a variety of cultural activities; visits to other parts of Tahiti; trips to the outer islands and celebration of TAHITI DAY on June 29.

Economic Development Reviewed...

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islands. PIDP's collaboration with Westinghouse Integrated Power Corporation and the Federated States of Micronesia illustrates how linkages between the public and private sectors can support applied research to provide practical benefits for island residents. Specifically, the project is designed to assess the viability of renewable energy systems in the state of Yap. A major objective is to identify opportunities and prepare designs for suitable modes of ownership, financing, and management for the operation and maintenance of energy efficient power generation systems in small Pacific island economies.

- Under the Manganese Nodule Assessment Project PIDP and the Program on Resources of the East-West Center are engaged in a cooperative endeavor to analyze the economic potential of manganese nodules found within the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Cook Islands. This undertaking is envisioned as a pilot project for other countries that may have similar potential. A key issue for the future will involve the role of private sector firms in manganese nodule operations should the economic viability of such an enterprise be established. Study will be presented at the Pacific Islands Conference in June 1993.



Education...

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region. Training courses are conducted in Hawai'i as well as in other Pacific island locations. For the first time this year efforts have been made to initiate follow-up instruction and dialogue via satellite as part of PIDP's training activities.

- **Special intern scholarships** provide individuals with a broad array of practical learning opportunities in Hawai'i that have direct relevance to development needs in the Pacific islands. Internships are arranged on the basis of official requests and are ordinarily for one to six months.



East-West Center PIDP scholarship recipients, Maara Tairi from the Cook Islands (left) and Cynthia Henry, Federated States of Micronesia (right) with East-West Center President, Michel Oksenberg (center).

Some of the Pacific Island students now sponsored by East-West Center include two Cook Islanders studying tropical agriculture at the University of Hawaii, a Fijian studying communications and working at KHPR Hawaii Public Radio, two Tuvaluan studying financial administration in Washington D.C. and development finance in Honolulu, a Solomon Islander training at the UH School of Tourist Industry Management, and a Tongan enrolled in computer sciences at the University of Hawaii. A Samoan student will do virus research on Maui, at the University of Hawaii and at Cornell University later this year.

